

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

10. (Currently Amended) A method of cementing an oil well or the like, comprising:
- a) forming a cement slurry comprising:
 - i) a solid fraction constituted by
 - 35% to 65% by volume particles with an average diameter in the range 200 μ m to 600 μ m,
 - 20% to 45% by volume ordinary Portland cement, and
 - 5% to 25% by volume particles with an average diameter in the range 0.5 μ m to 5 μ m;
 - ii) a surfactant; and
 - iii) water; the water content of the slurry being less than 50% by volume of the slurry;
 - b) foaming the slurry by introduction of gas; and
 - c) injecting the slurry into the well and allowing it to set. ;
- characterized in that the water content of the slurry is less than 50% by volume before foaming.
11. (Currently Amended) The A method as claimed in of claim 10, comprising forming a cement slurry having whereby the water content of the slurry is of 33% to 45% by volume ~~before foaming.~~
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) The A method as claimed in of claim 10 12, comprising introducing gas to the slurry such that the foaming quality is in the range 30% to 65%.
14. (Currently Amended) The A method as claimed in of claim 10 12, comprising including in the slurry one or more additives of the following types: a dispersing agent, an antigelling agent, a water retainer, a cement setting accelerator or retarder, or a de-foaming stabilizer.
15. (Currently Amended) A method of cementing an oil well or the like, comprising:
- d) forming a cement slurry comprising:
 - i) a solid fraction constituted by
 - 50% to 75% by volume micro-cement having a maximum particle size in the range 6 μ m to 12 μ m, ~~with a mean diameter of a few microns,~~ and a specific surface area per unit weight,

determined by the air permeability test ~~[Blaine Fineness]~~ of more than 0.6 m²/g,;

- 15% to 40% by volume particles with an average diameter in the range 0.05 micrometers to 0.5 micrometers , and
- 0 to 20% by volume particles with an average dimension in the range 3 nanometers to 60 nanometers;

ii) a surfactant; and

iii) water; the water content of the slurry being less than 72% by volume of the slurry;

e) foaming the slurry by introduction of gas; and

f) injecting the slurry into the well and allowing it to set,

~~characterized in that the water content of the slurry before foaming is less than 72% by volume.~~

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The method as claimed in of~~ claim 15, comprising forming a slurry having a water content before foaming in the range 58% to 70% by volume.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The method as claimed in of~~ claim ~~17~~ 15, comprising introducing gas to the slurry such that the foaming quality is in the range 30% to 65%.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A-The method as claimed in of~~ claim ~~17~~ 15, comprising including in the slurry one or more additives of the following types: a dispersing agent, an antigelling agent, a water retainer, a cement setting accelerator or retarder, or a de-foaming stabilizer.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The method of claim 10, whereby the step of foaming is carried out so that the gas bubble size is less than 7 millimeters.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, whereby the step of foaming is carried out so that the gas bubble size is less than 3 millimeters.

24. (New) The method of claim 15, whereby the step of foaming is carried out so that the gas bubble size is

less than 7 millimeters.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, whereby the step of foaming is carried out so that the gas bubble size is less than 3 millimeters.